

as the embodiment of Figs. 6 and 7, applicant concedes that, since both embodiments operate the same, they can be considered obvious variations of one another. Rejoinder of claims 21 - 24 for further consideration is respectfully requested.

Turning now to the rejection of claims 14 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by You, claim 14 already states that applicant's damper has an undistorted shape and a distorted shape when the damper is positioned in the handle which differs from the undistorted shape. You merely fastens his damper in the handle with adhesive and no distortion of any part of his damper takes place. However, claim 14 has been amended to more clearly state that the first (central) portion of the damper is axially positioned from axially spaced second and third portions (the ends of the damper). In the You device, the ends are substantially aligned in a transverse direction with the portion of the damper which contacts the handle.

Claim 20 has been amended to more clearly state that the distorted shape is assumed when the damper is placed into the handle and already states that the distorted shape differs from the undistorted shape. Although the examiner is of the opinion that You's device, when inserted into the handle, necessarily has to be distorted from its out of handle position to be held in place, we respectfully disagree since the You the device is simply glued into the handle therefore no distortion occurs when the damper is placed in the handle. The first portion of applicant's damper, being distorted as it is engaged with the handle, functions to damp vibration by acting as a cushion mass system while the second portion of applicant's damper, being free to flex in the

handle in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the handle, functions as a tuned mass system to effectively damp vibration. Each of the three embodiments of dampers shown in the You disclosure is believed to vibrate in a predominately side-to-side direction, rather than swinging in a pendulum-type motion as required to efficiently damp vibrations as a tuned mass system. This is due to the axially extending columnar portions 24 and connection ring 26 of Figs. 1 and 2; or the four separate wings 46 of Fig. 3, which also comprise columnar portions which extend axially; or the connection ring 56 of Fig. 4. Each of these elements extends in an axial direction for a significant length to confine motion of the weights to essentially vibrate from side to side within the rings. Also, as stated above, the You disclosure does not teach or suggest the distortion of a first portion of the damper when it is placed into the handle. You simply refers to fastening the device by an adhesive substance or other fastening means and thus does not anticipate claim 14 or claim 20, as amended.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. A telephone call to the undersigned will be appreciated to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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